

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:

In the Specification, please make the following changes:

The second full paragraph on page 6, lines 24- 30 is amended as follows:

“Thread guide and attaching means 25 in the foot of each valve support leg is more clearly illustrated in Figure 2 which is a top plan view of the valve holder of Figure 1, and Figure 3 which is a cross section of Figure 2. In the illustrated embodiment, openings 25 extend into outwardly facing channels (or angled slot) 26 in the leg portion immediately adjacent the foot, and such channels 26 are effective to guide the threads over the knee of the leg.”

The second full paragraph on page 7, lines 14- 25 is amended as follows:

“Also illustrated in Figures 2 and 3 are circumferential cleats ~~37~~ 27 extending from the inner wall of hub 18, which in cooperation with a circumferential groove in the stub axle of the thread collecting disc, provide a snap fit to restrain the disc against axial displacement while permitting free rotation. The circumferential groove of the axle 28 is indicated at 29 in Figure 5 which is a cross section through the center of the thread collecting device. Axle 28 is further provided with threaded drill hole 31 adapted to receive the screw threads of handle 13 as illustrated in Figure 1.”

The third full paragraph on page 8, lines 28-66 is amended as follows:

“The ~~preceding~~ ~~proceeding~~ description and drawings are to a specific preferred embodiment of the present invention and are not for purposes of limitation. The key element of the present invention resides in the combination of the valve holder and the attaching threads which permit the threads to be collected by the valve holder in order to draw the tips of the commissure support struts toward each other and provide a tapered valve configuration.”